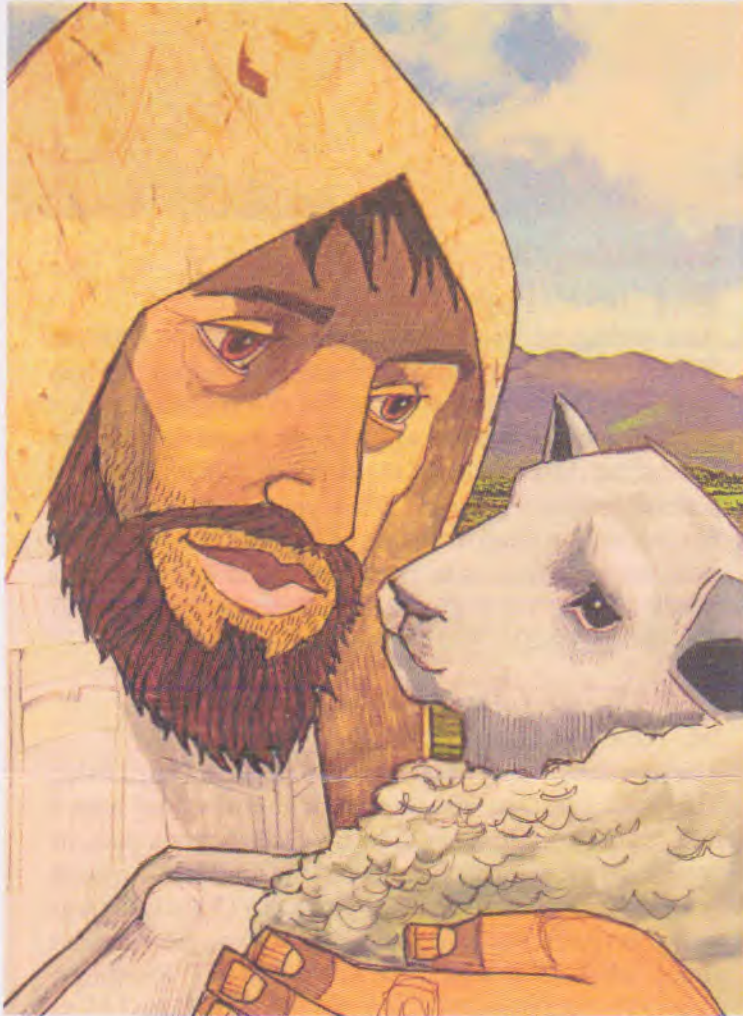


# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Prayer for Unity

Dear God,  
through your Son, the Good Shepherd,  
we have been comforted when weary  
guided when we have lost our way,  
and protected from those who seek to  
scatter the flock.  
We are grateful that the Shepherd's love  
is such  
that he laid down his life for us.

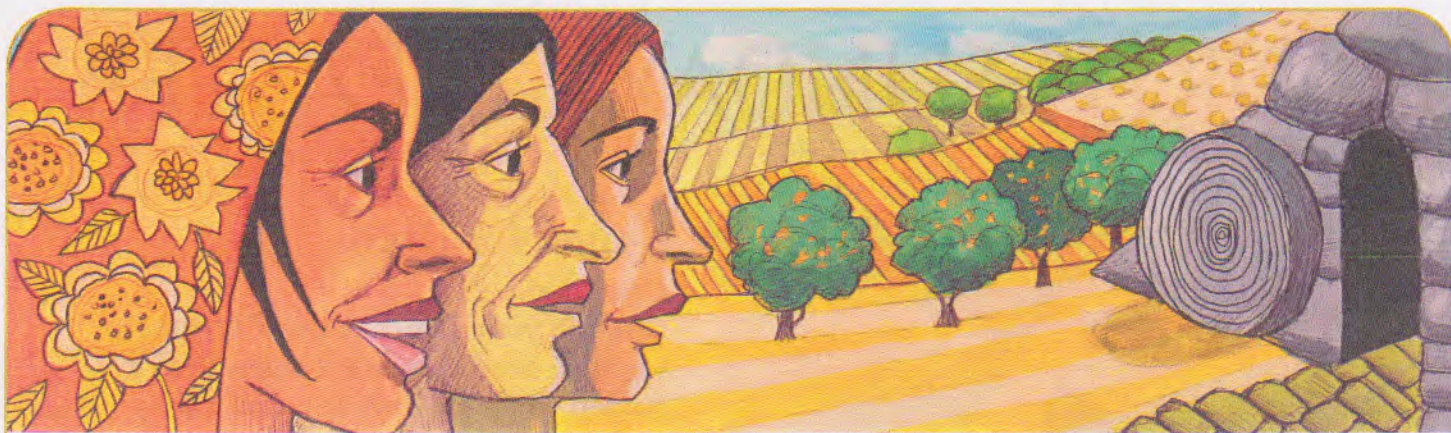
United now in Baptism,  
Help us to be one flock, one Body  
in Christ.  
May we always heed the Word of  
the Shepherd,  
listening to his voice when others seek to  
lead us astray.  
Grant that we may continue to follow  
his path,  
so that we may know you more deeply.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Sunday, April 26, 2015 An Intimate Relationship

Today's Readings: Acts 4:8–12; Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28, 29 (22); 1 John 3:1–2; John 10:11–18. What could be more comforting than the images in today's Second Reading and Gospel? From the First Letter of John, we hear that we are children of God. We are not just disciples or followers, but children. We have an intimate relationship with our Creator. God provides only good things for his children, and included in those good things is transformation. We are told at the end of this reading that we will be like God. We will be holy. We will be saints, and as saints we will see God. What could be better but to live with and see God?

The image from the Gospel resonates with us, even if we have never met a shepherd and know little about sheep.

We know from this reading that the Good Shepherd would give up his life for the sheep, and that an intimacy born from love exists between the two. We might consider here that the work is not only the shepherd's. Knowing someone requires spending time. Have you left your relationship with God up to the Good Shepherd, or are you doing your part by spending time alone in quiet with God, perhaps for a few minutes after Mass? Or do you spend time alone with the Word of God to know Christ? How have you taken the time so that you can know Christ just as the Father knows him? Do you know the sound of the Good Shepherd's voice?



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

**Monday, April 27, 2015**

### Abundant Life

Today's Gospel, which calls the Lord a Good Shepherd, is obviously about God's care for us. Implicit in this Gospel, though, is that our trust should be in God. Like any good shepherd, the Lord cares for us and makes himself known to us. In laying down his life for us, God has done more for us than any other shepherd would do for his sheep. God has provided us with abundant life. What more could we ask from anyone? Do we place our trust in the Lord? Today's Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 (3a); John 10:1-10.

**Tuesday, April 28, 2015**

### St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr

As a parish priest, Peter Chanel's care for the sick drew his parishioners' attention. However, the young priest longed to be a missionary and joined the Society of Mary (Marists) in 1831 and was sent to Oceania. After he mastered the language of the people, many were baptized and instructed in the faith, but when the chieftain's son requested Baptism, Chanel was clubbed to death and his body cut into pieces. In today's reading from Acts, the Apostles, filled with the Spirit, went out and became missionaries to the Gentiles. Today's Readings: Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 (117:1); John 10:22-30.

**Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

### St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

St. Catherine of Siena was a spiritual writer and mystic. She worked to establish peace and concord between cities, fought for the rights and freedom of the pope, and promoted renewal of religious life. Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles speaks of the work of the early Christian community. Catherine's zeal, and that of the early Christian community, serves as a model for today's Church. Do we bring enthusiasm to our evangelizing mission? Today's Readings: Acts 12:24-13:5a; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8 (4); John 12:44-50.

**Thursday, April 30, 2015**

### St. Pius V, Pope

As a youth who worked as a shepherd, Antonio Ghislieri lived simply. Such a background may have helped him stay focused on the salvation of souls, first as a Dominican priest and then later as a bishop and then pope. While the inquisitor general, he drew the ire of the pope when he opposed his policies, including nepotism. While pope, he lived an ascetic life and kept in mind the needs of the poor, the care of the sick, and catechesis as he made reforms in Rome. Today's Readings: Acts 13:13-25; Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 (2); John 13:16-20.

**Friday, May 1, 2015**

### St. Joseph the Worker

The Apostles in today's Gospel sound so much like us today. They have questions and want to be sure that they have a path. Christ tells them not to be troubled. As for a path, he says, "I am the way and the truth and the life." Is that enough direction for you? Are you able to trust that Christ is the way to the Father, the way to eternal life? Or do you grow anxious about what God wants of you? Today's Readings: Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab (7bc); John 14:1-6.

**Saturday, May 2, 2015**

### St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?" While St. Athanasius lived, he battled Arianism, the belief that Jesus was not God. He is known for his spiritual writings and sermons that provided insight into the Incarnation. He was unabashed in spreading the faith, even though at different times, he lived in fear of exile or being killed. Today's Readings: Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 (3cd); John 14:7-14.



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*Keeping the Seasons*

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